



Benedictine Sisters Sacred Heart Monastery

7/14/2009

Dr. Gwen Patton, Archivist
Trenholm Tech Archives
P. O. Box 10048
Montgomery AL 36108

Dear Dr. Patton,

Enclosed please find the following items which are intended to be included in the Trenholm Tech Archives' Idessa Williams-Redden Collection, at your discretion.

Item 1: *Song of the Witness*, words and music by Joan Wingert, O.S.B., 1985

In the summer of 1985 15 or 20 young Benedictine Sisters from various Monasteries in the US, Canada, and Mexico, came to Sacred Heart Monastery here in Cullman (AL) to prepare for their final vows later back in their own Communities. Their preparation included a trip to Montgomery as part of their Civil Rights experience. There Mrs. Redden spoke with them about the Movement in Montgomery. They were thrilled and touched by her description of that effort.

Afterward one of them, Joan Wingert (then from Atchison, Kansas), composed a song for her, arranged for guitar. I have included a signed copy of *Song of the Witness*.

Item 2: Copy of transcribed remarks made during an interview with Idessa Williams-Redden by Worth Long and/or Randall Williams for the Southern Regional Council under a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (1985).

Item 3: A copy of Build Me A City: The Life of Reverend Harold Purcell, Founder of the City of St. Jude, Montgomery, Alabama, by Sister Mary Ruth Coffman, O.S.B., who taught at St. Jude High School, 1979-1987. Although I don't know that Mrs. Redden is mentioned, the book identifies the atmosphere in which she carried out her courageous Civil Rights mission in her church and neighborhood.

These items are a donation. I would be grateful to hear from you about their disposition. Meanwhile, thank you for your attention to the archival data for this great person.

Sincerely,

Eleanor G. Harrison, O.S.B.

(Sister) Eleanor G. Harrison, O.S.B.

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